

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 FDRE-00 DPW-01

SCA-01 VO-03 L-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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R 250225Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3317

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 7309

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION BANGKOK 24 APR 75 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:
QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SONGKHLA 057

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, PFOR: CB, MY, TH, US

SUBJ: CAMBODIAN NAVY SHIPS AND REFUGEES

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 2166

1. THE NARATHIWAT GOVERNOR AND HIS MILITARY ADVISOR GIVE ME
A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT PICTURE THAN REFTEL. THEY SAID APRIL 23
THAT THREE CAMBODIAN LANDING CRAFT, OUT OF A TOTAL OF FIVE SHIPS
IN THE FLOTILLA WHICH LEFT KAMPOT, CAMBODIA, WERE ANCHORED
IN THE RIVER ESTUARY OFF THAK PAI VILLAGE, NARATHIWAT PROVINCE.
SINCE THIS RIVER FORMS THE BORDER BETWEEN THAILAND AND MALAYSIA,
THE SHIPS ARE ON THE BORDER.

2. THE GOVERNOR NAMED THE LEADER OF THE CAMBODIAN FORCES
AS COLONEL CHIN FERNANDEZ, WHOM HE FURTHER IDENTIFIED AS GOVERNOR
OF KAMPOT PROVINCE AND FORMER ASSISTANT MILITARY ATTACHE IN
BANGKOK. THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT HE BOARDED THE CAMBODIAN
VESSELS AND SPOKE WITH COLONEL CHIN, THE ONLY PERSON WHO SPOKE THAI.
THE CAMBODIAN FLOTILLA CONSISTS OF THREE LCVP, ACCORDING TO
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THE NARATHIWAT MILITARY ADVISOR. TWO OTHER SHIPS MAY BE MISSING.

THERE ARE SIX TO SEVEN HUNDRED PEOPLE ON BOARD, MOSTLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN. THE PASSENGERS ALSO INCLUDE TEN CAMBODIAN MUSLIMS.

3. THE MILITARY ADVISOR TOLD ME THE KING, PRESENTLY VISITING NARATHIWAT, ORDERED THE THAI RED CROSS TO PROVIDE FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES, SOME OF WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN DELIVERED BY APRIL 23. THE CAMBODIAN SHIPS ARE OUT OF FUEL, BUT THE THAI WILL NOT SUPPLY THIS ITEM. THE MILITARY ADVISOR THEN NOTED THAT THE CAMBODIANS INTENDED TO ASK FOR FUEL FROM THE AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR.

4. THE THAI OFFICIALS WITH WHOM I SPOKE SAY THAT THAILAND WILL NOT ACCEPT THE REFUGEES. THE YALA VICE GOVERNOR SAID APRIL 24, HOWEVER, THAT THE NARATHIWAT OFFICIALS HOUSED SOME OF THE CAMBODIANS IN A TEMPLE AT THAK PAI.

5. WE ARE CONTINUING TO CLARIFY THE FACTS OF THE PRESENT SITUATION.

6. COMMENT: MOST THAI OFFICIALS RECOGNIZED THAT, EXCEPT FOR EAST THAILAND, THE SHORTEST SEA ROUTE OUT OF CAMBODIA IS TO SOUTH THAILAND. THEY THEREFORE EXPECT MORE REFUGEES.

REUTHER
UNQUOTE
MASTERS

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